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Letter dated 19 April 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed to you by Mr. Mustafa Kemal Gökeri, Chargé d'affaires a.i., of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tahsin BURCUOĞLU
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 16 April 1993 from Mr. Mustafa Kemal Gökeri
to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to respond to the letter dated 12 April 1993 addressed to you by Mr. A. J. Jacovides, the Greek Cypriot representative, which was circulated as document A/47/924-S/25579 of the same date. This letter is replete with distortions and is a gross misrepresentation of facts pertaining to the recent incidents which occurred at our borders.

In his letter, Mr. Jacovides claims that it was the Turkish forces who were responsible for the shooting incident that took place in the evening of 8 April 1993, whereas this is not so. As is also well known to the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the area in question is under the responsibility of the Turkish Cypriot Security Forces.

Regarding the development of this unfortunate incident itself, the facts are as follows:

At 1835 hours local time that evening, two Greek Cypriot National Guard soldiers came out of an empty house in the United Nations-controlled buffer zone and started advancing towards the Turkish Cypriot positions in the "Caglayan" area, in clear violation of the buffer zone. They were spotted by a Turkish Cypriot soldier on guard duty at the sentry post nearby, which, contrary to what Mr. Jacovides claims, is permanently manned.

The Turkish Cypriot soldier on guard duty warned the Greek Cypriot intruders, first by shouting at them in English to stop and then by firing a warning shot into the air. In spite of these warnings, however, the Greek Cypriot soldiers kept advancing towards the Turkish Cypriot positions and actually reached our defence lines. When the shooting incident occurred, the Greek Cypriot soldier was within 5 metres of the Turkish Cypriot guard and clearly constituted a threat to him. The other Greek Cypriot soldier subsequently fled the area, and the body of the shot soldier was removed by UNFICYP authorities, who had come to the area soon afterwards, and was turned over to the Greek Cypriot authorities.

In this context, I would also like to bring to your kind attention an article published in the Greek Cypriot daily Cyprus Mail of 13 April 1993, under the heading "Retaliation not always justified", in which it is stated that "the guardsman was disobeying army orders by wandering into the buffer zone ...".

The Greek Cypriot side immediately started exploiting the incident and engaged in provocative activities. The next day, a large demonstration was held in the Greek Cypriot sector of Nicosia. A group of demonstrators later entered the buffer zone and blocked all traffic between the two sides at the Ledra Palace border gate.

On Sunday, 11 April 1993, Greek Cypriot National Guard soldiers again violated the buffer zone in the Famagusta area, by penetrating 200 to 300 metres

into it, and opened fire at the Turkish Cypriot positions causing extensive damage. This was clearly a deliberate and organized attack and it is interesting that no mention of it is made in Mr. Jacovides' letter.

I would like to emphasize that those provocative actions of the Greek Cypriot side further aggravate the existing lack of trust and confidence between the two sides, which is also mentioned in Your Excellency's latest report on your mission of good offices in Cyprus. We urge the Greek Cypriot side to exercise restraint and common sense and to avoid actions which adversely affect inter-communal peace and tranquillity.

I would be grateful if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa Kemal GÖKERI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.